

West Central Phoenix (WCP) North Canal Plume Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site

Boundaries:

The [WCP North Canal Plume Site](#) (Site) is bounded approximately by Indian School Road to the north, Grand Avenue to the east, West Flower Street to the south, and 40th Avenue to the west.

Site Status Update:

An aquifer test was carried out in September at the former Southwest Metals facility to help determine potential groundwater treatment options. ADEQ is currently seeking access to private properties in order to place monitoring wells in the north east corner of the project area to ascertain the extent and concentration of a tetrachloroethene (PCE) plume.

A pilot soil vapor extraction (SVE) test conducted in February 2007 by ADEQ at the former Osborn Products facility indicated that such a remedial technique would be ineffective at achieving reasonable results. Therefore, ADEQ will not install a SVE system at this site.

ADEQ continues to conduct the remedial investigation (RI) at the Site by installing new groundwater monitoring wells, as well as collecting soil and soil-gas samples. Groundwater monitoring is conducted quarterly.

Community Involvement Activities:

A community advisory board (CAB) has been formed for the Site and meets on a regular basis. Details of meeting agendas and minutes for 2007 and 2008 can be viewed at [ADEQ's Web site](#). These meetings are open to the public. An updated fact sheet can be found on the [ADEQ Web site](#).

Site History:

1963: The Precise/Paraflex facility is located near 39th Avenue and Clarendon Avenue. Precise/Paraflex and three subsidiary companies, Precision Marking, Paint Spray, Inc., and Perigee Metal Spinning, have operated at this property since 1963.

1952-1973: The former Southwest Metals facility is also located near 36th Avenue and Clarendon Avenue, across from the former Osborn Products facility. Southwest Metals operated at this property from 1952 to 1973. The manufacturing process at the Site consisted of constructing sand casts to form magnesium, aluminum, and brass castings.

1956-1984: The former Osborn Products facility is located near 36th Avenue and Clarendon Avenue. Osborn Products operated at the Site from 1956 to 1984. Facility operations included

chrome plating, machining, and grinding of parts for the aerospace industry. On-site processes included degreasing metal parts, chrome plating, and machining of parts to specification.

1977-1989: The former Magic Metals facility is located near 36th Avenue and Whitton Avenue. Magic Metals operated at the Site from 1977 to 1987, when the facility was abandoned by the company. Principal business activities of Magic Metals included electroplating for automobiles, custom restorations, industrial parts, and antiques. The facility generated waste electroplating baths and rinses containing cyanide, waste caustics and unspecified waste solvents from stripping tanks, and waste acids (sulfuric and chromic). Those tanks were excavated and removed from the facility in 1989.

1982-1989: Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were first detected in groundwater in the WCP area in July 1982. The City of Phoenix (COP) detected trichloroethylene (TCE) in four municipal public supply wells, COP #70, #71, #151, and #152. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Salt River Project (SRP), and the COP confirmed the presence of VOCs in the groundwater with sampling in 1983, 1985, and 1986. Groundwater from COP Wells #70 and #71 contained the highest concentrations of TCE and, therefore, were immediately shut down. Wells #151 and #152 were monitored for VOC concentrations from 1982 until 1989. As a result of sampling conducted during February of 1989, COP elected to take both wells #151 and #152 off-line on March 7, 1989.

1984-2007: Field investigation activities for the WCP North Canal Plume Site have been conducted between 1984 and the present time. Several contaminants were detected in soil and groundwater samples collected during field investigations at the four facilities. The primary contaminants of concern found were PCE, TCE, 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE) and chromium.

1987-2000: In 1987, the WCP area was designated a WQARF Priority List site. In 1997, ADEQ established the WQARF Registry which replaced the Priority List. The Site was placed on the WQARF Registry in June 1998 with a score of 22 out of a possible 120. The Site score was re-evaluated in 2000 with a revised score of 27.

2005: An Interim Remedial Investigation (RI) Report documenting all activities up to June was issued in August.

2006: The second Early Response Action (ERA) Evaluations and Technical Report was issued in October. Several facilities were identified as likely sources of the groundwater contamination in the WCP North Canal Plume Site. The facilities include, but are not limited to: the former Osborn Products facility, former Magic Metals facility, former Southwest Metals facility, and Precise Metal Products/Paraflex Tool & Machine (Precise/Paraflex). Other facilities are currently being investigated as potential sources of groundwater contamination at the Site.

Contaminants:

The current contaminants of concern in groundwater include the chlorinated solvents tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE) and chromium.

Contaminants of concern at the Site may change as new data become available. Other contaminants at the Site include methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) and nitrates.

Public Health Impact:

To date, testing in the WCP area indicates no exposure to the contamination. Sampling shows that the contaminated soils are under asphalt parking lots or asphalt-surfaced storage areas, or under the concrete floors of buildings. Contaminated drinking water wells in the area have been shut down. In addition, notices have been sent out to all known residences within the WCP area for the testing of domestic wells for contamination.

Site Hydrogeology:

The Site is located within the West Salt River Valley sub-basin of the Phoenix Active Management Area (AMA). The Salt River Valley is an alluvial filled basin located in the Basin & Range physiographic province. The Site is underlain by primarily sandy silts and silty sands with interbedded clay layers and gravelly sand zones.

The Grand Canal is located along the southern edge of the Site. The Grand Canal was unlined in the vicinity of the Site until January of 1998, when it was lined on the bottom and both sides. Prior to the lining, the canal provided extensive recharge to the water table aquifer, forming a mound in the water table. After the canal was lined, the mound dissipated and water levels dropped, most significantly near the canal.

Depth to groundwater has declined considerably in the past several years. This is attributed principally to the lining of the Grand Canal and the ongoing drought. In 1996, the depth to groundwater was approximately 70 feet below ground surface (bgs) adjacent to the canal and approximately 79 feet bgs approximately 900 feet north of the canal. By 2002, the mound had dissipated and the depth to groundwater was approximately 120 feet bgs. Prior to lining the canal, the groundwater flow direction varied from the north to the northwest beneath the Site; after lining the canal, groundwater flows to the south beneath the Site at a gradient of approximately 0.008 (September 2004). Current depth to water in the area (as of September 2004) is between 126 feet and 133 feet bgs.

Contacts:

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Information Repositories:

Interested parties can review site information at the Information Repository at the Burton Barr Central Library (Arizona Room) located at 1221 N. Central Avenue in Phoenix (602) 262-4636. With 24 hour notice, an appointment to review related documentation is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the ADEQ Records Management Center, 1110 W. Washington Street in Phoenix, Arizona. Please contact (602) 771-4380 or (800) 234-5677 to schedule an appointment to review these documents.